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BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1946.

H. W. FREESTONE, PRINTER, BUCKINGHAM

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM.

TOWN HALL,
BUCKINGHAM,
1946.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors, of the Borough of
Buckingham.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for 1946.

D. H. WALDRON.

A. Vital Statistics.

	1945	1946
Area (in acres)	6723	6723
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)...	3527	3439
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of year)	1175	1181
Rateable value	£22,653	£22,660
Rate per £1	18/-	18/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£91	£94 ⁷ / ₂ .
Births:		
Legitimate M. F.		
... .. 37 39	56	76
Illegitimate 1 2	8	3
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	18.15	22.9
" " " (Bucks)	16.5	18.6
" " " (England & Wales)	16.56	19.1
Still-Births M. F.		
... .. 2 1	2	3
Deaths 24 20	49	44
Deaths per 1,000 population	13.8	12.79
" " " (Bucks)	11	10.5
" " " (England & Wales)	11.4	11.5
Maternal Mortality rate		
" " " (England & Wales)	1.79	1.06
Infantile Mortality:		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000		
Live births	93.8	50.6
" for Bucks	32.9	30.1
" for England & Wales)	46	43
Deaths from Measles		Nil
" Whooping Cough		Nil
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :				1945			1946		
				M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Cancer	...	...	...	7	4	11	7	2	9
Cerebral Hemorrhage	...	...	...		7	7	4	3	7
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	5	5	10	3	6	9
Bronchitis	..	...	...	1	1	2	3		3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	2	3
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	2	1	3	1		1
Congenital Causes	...	...	...	1	1	2		2	2
TOTALS				17	20	37	19	15	34

B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mayor—Lord Addington.

Chairman—Alderman A. E. Busby.

Alderman C. W. Cantell, F. Holton.

Councillors A. E. Bryant, H. F. Cornwall, J. G. Denny, G. F. A. Downer, W. A. Griffiths, E. T. Hawes, O. Rodwell, P. J. Small, T. H. Smith, C. H. Wagland, S. G. Williams, Hon. F. S. Hubbard.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

A. M. Critchley, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.

Bruce W. E. Makepeace, A.M.INST B.E., M.R.SAN.I.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangement made with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service of the School of Pathology, Oxford, to perform pathological investigations continues.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES remain as heretofore.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME remains as heretofore.

5. CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.*—A centre at Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory.

(b) *Orthopædic Clinic*.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield-Morris Hospital.

(c) *Diphtheria Clinic*.—Monthly Sessions held at 19, Stratford Road.

(d) *Tuberculosis Dispensary*.—The County Tuberculosis Officer was in attendance once monthly at the dispensary.

(e) *Dental Clinic*.—A room in 19, Stratford Road was used as the School Dentist's Surgery.

(f) *Venereal Diseases*.—Cases were attended at the various clinics in Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties.

6. HOSPITALS.

No change in the Hospitals serving this area has occurred since the last report.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46, the following information is given:—

(i.) *Quality of Water*.—Apart from excessive hardness, the quality of the water has been excellent. Defects have been discovered in both water mains and sewers so that it has been considered advisable to chlorinate the water supplies to prevent a possible outbreak of water-borne disease from pollution through any flaw remaining undetected.

(ii.) *Quantity of Water*.—The position regarding the amount of water has been and still is at the time of writing, serious. With the demand for water the same, there has been a falling off in the quantity at the Maids Moreton works, and a diminution of the Akeley supply. Owing to lack of pressure in the mains, the Bourton and Tingewick Road areas have been short of water at times. The latter shortage has been considered to be caused by several factors including a bottle-neck in the water system and the fact that it is only gravity fed.

The daily consumption of water per head averaged 50 gallons, a figure, which in view of the few large industrial consumers of water, was excessive.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

(a) *Water Carriage System*.—Evidence was found that some sewers were defective whilst others did not connect up with the main system. These faults were remedied as and when found.

The Gawcott sewage disposal system has functioned well throughout the year and has caused no anxiety.

The main sewage works at Buckingham, although considerably overloaded, continued to function without any serious nuisance. The sewage has been chlorinated to control the odour from the sewage beds.

(b) *Refuse Disposal*.—Owing to the shortage of labour and fuel, incineration of refuse was abandoned, instead of which, rubbish was taken by horse-drawn vehicles to Lenborough Road. Complaints have been received regards the infrequency of collection. With the present system, an accelerated collection is impracticable, although it would be improved by provision of a more centrally situated controlled tip. If the amenities of a Borough are desired in place of those of a Rural District, a motor refuse collector is a necessity, and will provide a more satisfactory sanitary service, but at the same time will be more costly.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Some pollution of the Ouse has occurred, but has not been sufficiently severe to lead to official action.

4. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Mortuary continued to serve the needs of the Borough and of the Buckingham Rural District.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

No action has been taken to maintain the bathing pool in the river which in the past, although far from satisfactory, nevertheless has been fairly well frequented. In this district, there is a great need for a proper swimming bath with a safe water supply.

6. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported.

7. SCHOOLS.

There is nothing special to report under this heading.

D. Housing.

The housing situation in the Borough was acute, and a large number of houses were overcrowded.

During the year, six houses on the new housing estate were completed and occupied.

E. Summary of work of Sanitary Inspector during the Year.

1. GENERAL.

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	520
Unfit food	...	...	...	...	12
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	15

2. SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

The Government Slaughter House at the premises of Mr. J. W. Scrafton, is the only place at which slaughtering is permitted, and is under the control of the Ministry of Food. Regular inspection of carcasses is made, in all, 108 visits.

3. ON REGISTER.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	25
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	58

F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

1. GENERAL.

The Borough has been very free from infectious disease.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	4

4. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section ¹⁷⁶~~66~~ of the Public Health Act, ~~1925~~. ¹⁹³⁶

5. TUBERCULOSIS.

There have been no deaths from phthisis or other forms of tuberculosis.

New Cases: 4.

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Note.—This report is made on behalf of Dr. Critchley, Medical Officer of Health, who left this Council's service in February, 1947.

